

Charadrius melodus (Piping Plover)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Charadriidae (Lapwings And Plovers)

General comments:

Average 30 to 50 breeding pairs for the last 5 years, need intensive management for reproductive success.

Species Conservation Range Maps for Piping Plover:

Town Map: [Charadrius melodus_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Charadrius melodus_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: **Endangered**

Federal Status: **Threatened**

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Regional Synthesis (RSGCN):

Responsibility: High, Concern: Very High

United States Shorebird Conservation Plan:

Highly Imperiled

North Atlantic Regional Shorebird Plan:

Highly Imperiled

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Piping Plover:

Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Sandy Shore

Habitat System Name: Sand Beach ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: *nesting, brood-rearing, feeding and roosting*

Habitat System Name: Sand Flat ****Primary Habitat**** Notes: *feeding*

Stressors Assigned to Piping Plover:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Recreational Activities

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Can mitigate impacts through outreach, municipal beach management agreements, and municipal ordinances.

Charadrius melodus (Piping Plover)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Charadriidae (Lapwings And Plovers)

IUCN Level 1 Threat Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Includes non native predators such as red fox. Intensive predator control can reverse impacts.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Problematic Native Species-Diseases

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Includes native predators such as skunks, gulls, and crows, intensive predator control can reverse impacts and increase productivity.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Continued monitoring of pairs and nests is a constant informational need to determine population status and identify important areas for protection initiatives.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Natural Systems Modifications

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Other Ecosystem Modifications

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Construction of jettys, riprap and sea walls cause beach erosion and diminish nesting habitat. Can mitigate impacts through permit review recommendations.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Industrial and Military Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Habitat loss from oil/chemical spills

IUCN Level 1 Threat Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Tourism and Recreational Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Outreach and protection of nesting areas through environmental review can reverse impacts to a large degree but not entirely.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Sea-level rise and beach erosion will contribute to loss of nesting habitat. Existing development and hardened shorelines will prevent Maine beaches from migrating inland as sea level rise occurs.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Storms and Flooding

Severity: Severe

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Storms and flooding will cause beach erosion and loss of nesting habitat. Some impacts may be minimized through the environmental review process.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Temperature Extremes

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Oceanic temperature changes may impact intertidal invertebrate populations, an important food source for plovers.

Charadrius melodus (Piping Plover)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Charadriidae (Lapwings And Plovers)

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Piping Plover:

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: on-going
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------

Continue current management activities including: stake and twine symbolic fencing around nesting areas, exclosures around nests, posting signage to identify nesting areas, and locating and monitoring nesting pairs.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Tourism and Recreational Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------

Develop long-term, non-regulatory habitat protection via management agreements or conservation easements.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Other Ecosystem Modifications

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: on-going
----------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------

Conduct intensive predator management including lethal and nonlethal removal of native and nonnative predators from nesting and brood rearing areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
----------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------

Continue efforts to educate beach recreationalists, landowners and municipal officials regarding ecology and life history requirements.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Tourism and Recreational Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: on-going
----------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	-----------------------

Continue efforts to recruit and provide training sessions for volunteer beach monitors.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
----------------------------	--	----------------------------------	-----------------------

Continue efforts to annually monitor abundance, distribution, and productivity.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Other Ecosystem Modifications

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

***Charadrius melodus* (Piping Plover)**
Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Charadriidae (Lapwings And Plovers)

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.